



Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for West Virginia?**

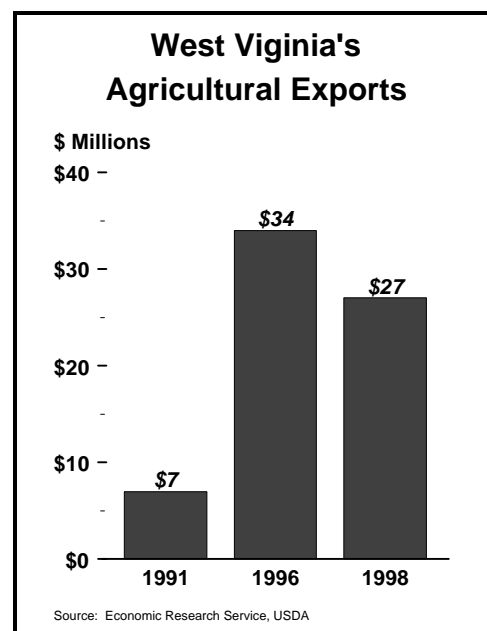
October 1999

West Virginia produces agricultural and wood products some of which are exported worldwide. In 1998, the state's total cash receipts from farming reached \$405 million, and wood product shipments totaled \$652 million in 1996. As for exports, West Virginia's agricultural sales overseas were estimated at \$27 million in 1998. These industries are important to West Virginia's economy. They create jobs on farms and in mills, and also support jobs in related sectors, such as food processing, transportation, and manufacturing.

The state's top agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # poultry and products -- \$22 million
- # tobacco leaf -- \$2 million

World demand for agricultural and wood products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If West Virginia's industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.



West Virginia Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # With a large portion of its farm receipts coming from the poultry industry, West Virginia should benefit under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20 percent tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access for poultry meat equal to 8.5 percent of domestic consumption (roughly 30,000 tons in 1996). The Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.

Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service